



KentuckyHistoricalSociety

TORN WITHIN & THREATENED WITHOUT

KENTUCKIANS IN THE CIVIL WAR ERA



Post-Visit Activity

8th Grade

Short Essay Research and Writing

Overview:

This post-visit activity is designed as a culminating project that follows pre-visit activities and a visit from the HistoryMobile (using Touring Strategy #1). Working individually or in groups, students will use primary and secondary sources to construct a short comic about the Civil War. All HistoryMobile activities support Common Core English Language Arts standards. Students should score two or higher on the [assessment rubric](#) for proficiency.

About the Exhibit: The HistoryMobile exhibit “Torn Within and Threatened Without: Kentuckians and the Civil War Era” features eight Kentuckians ranging from the famous to the everyday citizen. Through personal recollections, primary sources, authentic artifacts and touch-screen activities, students can learn critical thinking strategies and explore the difficult decisions Kentuckians faced during the Civil War. Each story highlights the importance of individual choice as a major factor in shaping Kentucky history.

Time Required: 1-2 Hours

Standards Addressed:

Common Core ELA » Writing » Grades 6-8

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

- ❖ CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.7 Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.
- ❖ CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.8 Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
- ❖ CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.9 Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis reflection, and research.

Range of Writing

- ❖ CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.10 Write routinely over extended time frames (time for reflection and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Common Core ELA » History/Social Studies » Grades 6-8

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.7 Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.8 Distinguish among fact, opinion, and reasoned judgment in a text.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.9 Analyze the relationship between a primary and secondary source on the same topic.

Essential Resources:

- Student Graphic Organizer (partially completed while students were in the HistoryMobile)
- Student Comic Template and [Student Instruction Sheet](#)
- HistoryMobile Comic Book
- Pencil or Colored Pencils

Activity:

The post-visit is where students put skills they've learned to use; conducting research, compiling information, and writing informative/explanatory texts. Students will use information from the HistoryMobile exhibit and exhibit website and online sources to construct a 1-2 page paper about Kentucky and the Civil War scoring three or higher on the assessment rubric.



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Student Essay Writing Instructions

Using primary and secondary source materials, construct a 1-2 page essay comparing and contrasting a character from the HistoryMobile exhibit and another individual (from the Civil War era) that you select. In doing so, think about the choices that each individual faced. A minimum of three primary sources must be used.

- 1. Read ALL instructions carefully before beginning.**
- 2. Select Your HistoryMobile Character:** Using your notes from the HistoryMobile, select one of the featured characters to use in your essay.
- 3. Select Your Other Character:** Using the internet or your school library, select another individual (from the Civil War era) to use in your essay.
- 4. Develop a Thesis Statement.** What point do you wish to make about the Civil War in Kentucky? What do you feel is important or noteworthy?
- 5. Create an Outline:** Sketch out your essay to organize the basic points you wish to make. Think about the supporting evidence you will use to back up your points.
 - a. Introduction:** This includes your thesis statement and a summary of the information you will present.
 - b. Body:** This should include 2-3 basic points that you'll be making. List the evidence you'll be using under each point.
 - c. Conclusion:** Summarize your paper and state why the evidence supports your thesis.
- 6. Write your Paper.** Using your outline as a guide, write your 1-2 page essay.
- 7. Cite your Sources:** Create a bibliography at the end of your paper. You should cite the author, title, publisher, and date. Here is an example:

Harrison, Lowell H. *The Civil War in Kentucky*. The University of Kentucky Press. 1987.